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**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yoshiaki KOMATSU

Group Art Unit: 2178

Application No.: 09/820,006

Examiner: G. VAUGHN

Filed: March 29, 2001

Docket No.: 108630

For: INFORMATION RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS

**APPLICANT'S SEPARATE RECORD OF  
FEBRUARY 7, 2006 PERSONAL INTERVIEW**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Vaughn in the February 7, 2006 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

During the interview, Applicant's representative asserted that Moran and Oberteuffer do not, alone or in permissible combination, teach or suggest a handheld playback device "that outputs a playback start signal of the sound data with the switch in a first position and a playback end signal of the sound data with the switch in a second position," as recited in independent claims 1, 5 and 23. Further, Applicant's representative asserted that Moran and Oberteuffer do not, alone or in permissible combination, teach or suggest a handheld playback device "that plays back sound data stored from the input time of a writing information unit till the input time of a next writing information unit," as recited in independent claim 12.

Examiner Vaughn indicated that he will further review the switch feature of the handheld playback device in light of the applied references and perform an updated search for other related art before issuing the next Office Action.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-23 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Holly N. Moore  
Registration No. 50,212

JAO:HNM/cfr

Date: February 17, 2006

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